



Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: April 10, 2019

Time: 7:15 PM

Location: Town Hall Annex, 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members in Attendance: Daniel Amstutz, Lenard Diggins, Brian Kmetz (non-voting), Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Charles Giroux, Bill Copithorne, Jeffery Maxtutis,

Members Absent: Michael Gordon, Scott Smith, Melissa Laube, Wayne Chouinard

Howard Muise called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Administration:

Minutes of March 13, 2019 were approved unanimously.

Town Issues and Activities:

Bill Copithorne (DPW) noted several items:

- Road resurfacing projects have begun for the season.
 - In particular, sidewalks and ramps are being refurbished on Mountain Avenue in addition to repaving.
 - Other locations throughout town will be receiving a preservation chip seal to extend the life of the existing pavement.
 - The prioritization of roads being worked on is based on the town road inventory and is planned out over the next two years.
- Bill indicated that Wayne Chouinard (Town Engineer) would like the TAC to reconvene its Park Avenue working group as he has new design ideas he would like to discuss with the committee.
- DPW is also attempting to resubmit the Lake Street signal project to the state for Complete Streets funding
 - Daniel Amstutz indicated he felt it was unlikely that the state would approve the grant as Arlington has already been awarded other complete streets projects.
 - The deadline for submissions to the Complete Streets program is May 1st.

Corey Rateau (APD) noted several items:

- He has been working with members of the senior center staff regarding on-street parking in the area of the senior center.
 - An option being considered is to redistribute spaces in the lot amongst the tenants of the building to allow more efficient use of the existing off-street spaces.
- Traffic counts will be resuming as the weather improves.

Daniel Amstutz (Planning) noted several items:

- Dan recently attended a transportation innovation conference hosted by MassDOT in Worcester. Topics discussed included
 - A trial installation of connected vehicle technology along Route 9.
 - TMA Shuttles
 - New strategies for public meetings/involvement
- The Clean Energy future committee will be discussing de-carbonization of transportation in town. This committee meets the fourth Friday of each month in the Lyons hearing room.

Automated Driving Systems

Daniel Amstutz introduced the item. Arlington is considering joining a MassDOT program to allow for the testing of autonomous vehicles on Arlington roads. The current MassDOT rules are more rigorous than other states. Arlington is one of several towns looking to join the program, Malden and Cambridge are already members. Daniel indicated he will have more information at the next meeting. The plan is for the TAC to bring recommendations to the Select Board.

Corey Rateau expressed concerns regarding enforcement of Bounded/Unbounded areas as well as what happens should an autonomous vehicle enter a prohibited area. Several other members of the committee agreed that more information regarding this problem was needed. It was noted that it would be beneficial for a representative of the industry to speak to TAC and answer questions. TAC will continue to discuss the issue.

Bartlett Avenue Parking Restriction/Recommendations

The committee received a request from the Select Board, submitted via the town website, to evaluate implementing parking restrictions on Bartlett Avenue. The request was made to address congestion in that area due to parking on both sides of Bartlett Avenue. It was decided that Corey would perform an initial investigation and bring more information to the committee at the next meeting.

Mass Ave Crosswalk at Robbins Library

Jeff Maxtutis raised a point that the committee should evaluate improvements to this crosswalk. Bump outs were discussed as a potential way to improve visibility. Corey also recommended some kind of overhead flashing beacon as flashing beacons on the sidewalk would do little to improve visibility. Several other members of the committee indicated that the crosswalk was difficult to use, especially when crossing from the library. TAC agreed to the creation of a working group to evaluate options.

Crosswalk on Summer at Buzzell Field

The committee decided to table this issue to the next meeting as Wayne Chouinard was not present to discuss proposed changes. In addition, this area may be resurfaced in the near future and crosswalk improvements could be included in that project.

AHS Presentation to TAC

Several members of TAC attended a presentation from the Architect of the new Arlington High School regarding transportation. It was noted that drop off/pick-up would be moved to the Massachusetts Avenue curb and the access road at the back of the school because the driveway in front of the building will be eliminated. Use of the curb lane on Massachusetts Avenue could interfere with the existing bike lane. There will be no parking at the curb in front of the school. The curb lane be designated as a fire lane but could also be used for drop-off/pick-up. A connection from the bike path to the school is planned and bike parking will be provided. The architect will also perform a more through evaluation of traffic on Mill Street.

A potential connection to Grove Street was discussed but there are concerns regarding safety. DPW parks and moves heavy equipment in the area which could make it unsafe for pedestrians.

Crosswalk on Academy at Maple

Corey noted that construction was now complete and he plans to perform counts when the weather improves.

Traffic Calming on Kensington Park

Weather has prevented counts from being performed, so there was no information to present to the committee.

Appleton St/Paul Revere Road

There was no new information on this item. The TAC is unable to fund a 72-hour signal warrant until sometime in the fall. Howard Muise told the committee that a budget has been requested from town meeting. The existing multiyear appropriation has lapsed.

Howard Muise adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm